



THE RIPPER TIMES

Weekly Newsletter of Traralgon South Primary School

PRINCIPAL REPORT...

Welcome to 2025:

Following a short week to start the school year, welcome to our first newsletter for 2025! The January school holidays already feels like so long ago, but I hope everyone in our school community had a lovely time over the break, and pending your own work commitments, found opportunities to rest and relax with your loved ones.

To our new families, I hope your transition into our school community has been a positive and seamless experience for you and your child(ren), and I would like to extend an open invitation for feedback so we can continue to improve the support we provide.

For those who were unable to attend our whole school assembly last Friday afternoon, I spoke to our students about how fantastic their start to the school year has been. We should not underestimate the sudden change in routine a child experiences upon returning to school, and for some, the nervousness of being in a different grade can create a level of anxiety and worry. Nevertheless, from the presentation of our students consistently being in uniform, their behaviour in the classroom and yard, the RIPPER values demonstrated towards their schoolmates (and particularly to our new students), and their high levels of attentiveness in the classroom, we have been suitably impressed. Undoubtedly the support from parents and carers is an integral ingredient in this, so for this we thank you.

As a brief update to our community with regards to staffing, for health reasons Nicole Wilhelm is unfortunately unavailable to teach our Grade 5/6 class each Monday, with Stacey Dinelli temporarily increasing her time fraction to fill this short-term vacancy. As many would know, Stacey is very experienced in this role and we are extremely fortunate to have a perfect solution willing and able to help us out, especially at short notice. We wish Nicole the very best in her recovery and hope she will be able to re-join our team soon.

Looking ahead to the year in front of us, we're excited for the opportunities this will present. Following a positive school review in 2024, we are in the first year of a new Strategic Plan and we will look to embed many of the successful strategies we have introduced over the previous few

Principal: Joel Blythman

A: 13-19 Keith Morgan Drive,
Traralgon South, VIC, 3844

P: (03) 5195 5244

E: traralgon.south.ps@education.vic.gov.au

W: www.traralgonstps.vic.edu.au



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years. Additional details around these will be provided in future editions of our newsletter, so please keep an eye out for these.

Reminders:

As we begin the school year, we consider it worthwhile providing our parent community the following reminders, just in case these have been forgotten or overlooked:

- As per both our Sunsmart and Uniform policies, please be reminded that during Term 1 children are required to wear a royal blue wide brim bucket hat whilst outdoors. For those that need, these can be purchased from our General Office for \$8.50 each. Children without a royal blue wide brim bucket hat will be required to play undercover instead.
- Endorsed by School Council in Term 4 2024, our 2025 Curriculum Contributions policy politely requests parents pay the \$185 (plus any optional other contributions) by the end of February 2025.

Payments can be made via cash, or by direct debit to our school account below. Please also include a description of the related item you are making a payment for in the reference field. For example, 'Surname: 2025 Contributions'

Account Name: Traralgon South Primary School

BSB: 083 001

Account Number: 387779521

Payments can be made in full, or for those that prefer, via either of the suggested instalment options detailed below:

Quarterly (per term): \$46.25

Monthly (January-October): \$18.50

- As a reminder to returning families, and as a notice to new families, please be aware that at the end of 2024 our School Council approved **Friday 14 February 2025** as a student free day. The purpose of this day is for our staff to participate in professional learning alongside other schools in the Latrobe Valley network, with a focus on responsive teaching and ensuring the learning program delivered to students is targeted to their point of need.

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5th February 2025

ISSUE 1

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Approval was sought from our School Council at the end of 2024 as our first scheduled meeting for 2025 is 10 February, leaving an unreasonably short timeline to inform families of these arrangements.

Subsequent School Council approved 2025 student free days are yet to be determined, with these to be communicated as soon as possible.

- All important dates for Term 1 have been added to the Compass calendar, and I encourage users to access this feature for prior notice of these events. Additional reminders are also included in the "Dates To Remember" section of each newsletter, and where necessary, further information will be shared with our school community as we approach the dates themselves.

Take care,

Joel Blythman

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Hockey Clinic

We are excited to welcome the Hockey Victoria Roadshow to our school on Monday February 17th. Students are being given the fantastic opportunity to try out the exciting game of hockey! They will learn the skills of the game through exciting game-based activities suited to every year level and ability.

Hockey Victoria will be sending their amazing Participation Officers to our school in the coming weeks to provide an engaging, fun, and safe hockey experience for everyone. At Hockey Victoria they pride themselves in providing an enjoyable experience for every student, so keep an eye out and see if you can spot one of their coaches at school soon!

If you enjoy the sessions during school, you can continue with your hockey experience by joining a local Hookin2Hockey program www.hookin2hockey.com.au. With programs all over the state you can find a local program that will suit your schedule.

Conveyance Allowance

You may be eligible to receive conveyance allowance for transporting your child to and from school. To be eligible to receive conveyance allowance, a student must:

- Be school age
- Reside more than 4.8km by the shortest route from the nearest school attended **or** bus stop,
- Be enrolled at the nearest government primary or secondary school, or at the nearest appropriate registered non-government school.

If you believe you are eligible to receive conveyance allowance, please contact the school to complete an application. If you have claimed this in the past you do not need to fill in another claim form unless your circumstances have changed. Applications close Wednesday 5th March.

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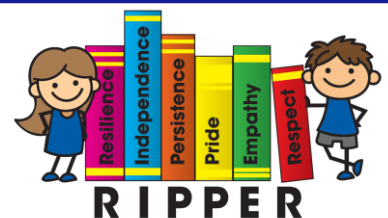
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THE
EDUCATION
STATE

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government's commitment to breaking the link between a student's background and their outcomes.

CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors. Excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works while sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are a part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF is provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is:

- \$150 for primary school students
- \$250 for secondary school students

MORE INFORMATION

For more information about CSEF visit:

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/Pages/csef.aspx>

HOW TO APPLY

New applicants should contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from the website below.

If you applied for CSEF at your child's school last year, you do not need to complete an application form this year unless there has been a change in your family circumstances.

You only need to complete an application form if any of the following changes have occurred:

- **new student enrolments**; your child has started or changed schools this year.
- **changed family circumstances**; such as a change of custody, change of name, concession card number, or new siblings commencing this year.

Check with the school office if you are unsure.



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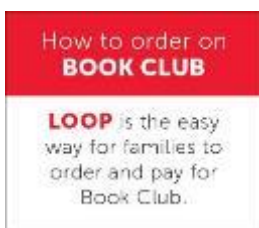
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DATES TO REMEMBER...

10 th February	Monday	School Council Meeting – 7:00pm
12 th February	Wednesday	LOOP Online Scholastic Book Club Orders Close
14 th February	Friday	Student Free Day
17 th February	Monday	Hockey Clinic
4 th March	Tuesday	Whole School House Athletics Carnival
5 th March	Wednesday	Conveyance Allowance Claims Close
6 th March	Thursday	Project ROCKIT Incursion – Years 3 to 6
10 th March	Monday	Labour Day Public Holiday
25 th March	Tuesday	School Photos

SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB



All Book Club orders are to be completed via the LOOP platform. Please do not send orders and payment to the school as we do not handle these.

Go to <https://www.scholastic.com.au/book-club/book-club-parents/> or click on the link to the left and you will find all instructions there.

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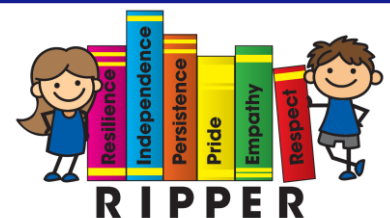
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RIPPER STUDENT AWARDS...



Prep/1	Landon P	For being a kind, caring and responsible leader in our classroom! Thank you for welcoming the new preps with kindness.
1/2	Vann D	For a positive start of Year 2 and embracing our RIPPER values.
3	Jacob B	For being super helpful and putting in a great effort to start the school year.
4/5	Ella R	For a consistently positive start to the year, showing resilience, independence and respect.
5/6	Thomas W	For displaying leadership qualities while establishing whole class learning routines. You're a legend!

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Netball is starting off with a bang in Gippsland on Sat 8 & Sun 9 February 2025! Get your netball teams together.

Melbourne Mavericks open training session followed by a signing opportunity, a free clinic with the Mavericks, Waikato Bay development team from New Zealand, Victorian 17 & 19 & Under netball teams, Victorian Netball League clubs including our very own Gippsland Stars.

Tickets are really great value.

- Saturday tickets \$15 for adults, \$5 for juniors under 14 and family tickets are \$25
 - Sunday tickets \$7 for adults, \$3 for juniors and family tickets just \$17.
 - Doors open at 9am

To buy your tickets, please click this link [Netball Victoria Traralgon Showcase Tickets, Gippsland Regional Indoor Sports Stadium, Traralgon | TryBooking Australia](#)

PLEASE NOTE: To attend the Mavericks clinic participants must purchase a ticket to the netball, here is the link to register for the clinic, <https://www.intix.com.au/event/melbourne-mavericks-clinic-traralgon>

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WEST END JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB

Spots have opened up in all age groups



U9's (2016-2017) - U11's (2014-2015)

U13's (2012-2013) - U15's (2011-2010)

Training starts in March



Get in contact with us to secure your child's spot!

President - Belinda Bull
president.wejfc@outlook.com
0417345195



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